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## WHITE HOUSE TALKS MAKE LITTLE PROGRESS ON SALT

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U.S. and Soviet officials disagreed sharply yesterday over the Soviet and Cuban role in Africa during lengthy discussions that failed to make much progress on strategic arms limitations.

President Carter and senior foreign policy and defense aides spent four hours talking to Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko at the White House — double the scheduled time. Gromyko later lunched with Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance at the State Department.

After the apparently tense and tough White House meeting, Carter's national security adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, leaked the results of his recent visit to China.

Brzezinski's timing in making public the similarity of U.S. and Chinese interests in opposing the Soviet Union seemed intended to bring pressure on Moscow to be more flexible in its African policy and in negotiations for a new strategic arms limitations treaty, SALT II. In the past the Kremlin has reacted angrily to such pressure.

MOST OF THE time in yesterday's meetings was spent on SALT. But that complex blend of technical and political issues, plus briefer talk

about a nuclear weapons test ban and human rights in the Soviet Union, was overshadowed in public comments by controversy on Africa.

The controversy focused on possible Cuban involvement in the invasion of Zaire's Shaba province by Katangan rebels two weeks ago.

On the broader question of superpower relations in Africa, Gromyko told reporters he did not think there would be a confrontation.

"We have no intention of grabbing either the whole of Africa or its parts," he said. "We don't need it."

Gromyko emerged from the White House and said that he and Carter had held a "useful and essential" discussion on Africa. "We do have our differences" on what is happening there, he said.

"I think notably that the information that the president has at his disposal is not correct. This is our assessment of it," the foreign minister said. He did not elaborate.

**GROMYKO'S REMARK** followed administration statements that the Soviet Union and Cuba have been stirring up trouble in Africa and endangering detente. Carter has repeatedly warned publicly, and he repeated privately to Gromyko, that Soviet activities are making it difficult to win American support for new arms control agreements with Moscow.

Cuban President Fidel Castro has denied that his country had any direct or indirect involvement in the Shaba invasion. But Carter said Thursday that Cuba shares "a burden and a responsibility" for the invasion. Its forces "played a key role in training and equipping" the attackers, Carter said, and Cuba knew of their plans but "obviously did nothing to restrain them. . . ."

The administration's evidence for this has not been disclosed. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has called CIA Director Stansfield Turner to testify this week on it.

Gromyko seemed to be deliberately entering this dispute, although he did not specifically refer to it.

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